Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 7 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Fujiwara (US5,187,625). Fujiwara describes a suspension which has a pair of piezoelectric ceramic elements which can be driven with a voltage to displace the distal end portion of the load beam. Only Fig. 1 of Fujiwara illustrates a complete suspension and the view in Fig. 1 is only a top-down view. Fujiwara does not provide an end-on illustration of the suspension. At the distal end of the suspension in Fig. 1 of Fujiwara, only two features are enumerated: a flexure **15** and another feature **16** which apparently is a slider but does not appear to be expressly mentioned in the specification.

The present invention illustrates a prior art suspension in Fig. 1 which also includes a flexure **112** and a slider **110** similar to the distal end of the suspension of Fujiwara.

The present invention provides for a suspension wherein the torsional axis of the suspension is adjusted to pass through the pivot point of the slider. This is perhaps best illustrated by reference to the end-on views of the suspensions in Figs. 4b, 4d, and 4f of the present application. In Fig. 4b a suspension with attached slider has been formed with positive sag (**402** in Fig. 4a). A result of the positive sag is that the rotational axis of the suspension **405** passes above the pivot point **407** of the slider **404**. As explained in the present application on page 4, lines 15-20, a mismatch between the pivot point and the torsional axis causes excess track misregistration (TMR). The end-on view Fig. 4f illustrates the case

wherein the torsional axis passes below the pivot point of the slider. This case also results in excess TMR. Fig. 4d illustrates the optimal case provided by the present invention wherein the torsional axis of the suspension passes through the pivot point of the slider.

The source of the excess TMR caused when the torsional axis of the suspension does not pass through the pivot point of the slider is not addressed by Fujiwara. Fujiwara does not discuss the torsional axis of the suspension or the pivot point of the slider; nor does Fujiwara discuss the preferred relationship between the torsional axis and the pivot point of the slider.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(e) rejection based on Fujiwara.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, and 12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara in view of Blaeser (US 5,187,625). As discussed above, Fujiwara does not teach nor suggest the present invention. Blaeser describes a laminated, damped suspension. Blaeser's suspension contains stiffener elements (e.g. the turned up portions **16** in Fig. 1) which are well known in the art. Blaeser does not teach or suggest altering the location of a torsional axis, nor does Blaeser teach or suggest the importance of the relationship between the position of the torsional axis and the slider pivot point. Therefore, Fujiwara and Blaeser either singly or in combination teach or suggest the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the

Examiner reconsider the present application and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection based on Fujiwara and Blaeser.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara in view of Manzke (US 4,739,430). Claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 are dependent on claims 1 and 7 and contain all the restriction therein. Manzke describes a suspension of the prior art which is constructed of a magnesium rich alloy. As discussed above, Fujiwara does not teach nor suggest the present invention. Furthermore, Fujiwara and Manzke singly or in combination do not teach the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection based on Fujiwara and Manzke.

Respectfully submitted,

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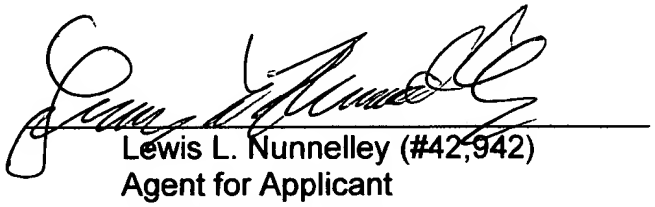
Date: Sept 7, 2004 By: 

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